



Embassy of the United States of America Reykjavik, Iceland

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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U.S. Adds Visa Waiver Program Travel Fee in September

Beginning on September 8, 2010, all Visa Waiver Program travelers to the U.S. will be required to pay a \$14 fee (approximately 1,600 ISK) when submitting their Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA).

ESTA, which became mandatory in 2009, is an electronic pre-clearance travel authorization that all nationals of Visa Waiver Program countries must obtain prior to U.S. travel. Icelanders have been eligible for the Visa Waiver Program since 1991 and are therefore not required to pay the standard \$140 U.S. visa application fee.

The ESTA application must be completed online at the website <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> and is available in Icelandic. Credit card or debit card payment is required. Further information on ESTA, including instructions for completing the application, can be found at <https://iceland.usembassy.gov>

Travelers with an ESTA approved prior to September 8, 2010, do not need to submit a new application. Once approved, authorizations are valid for two years or until the applicant's passport expires, whichever comes first. ESTA applications may be submitted any time prior to travel.

"We are pleased that Iceland continues to be one of only thirty-six countries to participate in the Visa Waiver Program," said Laura Gritz, the U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Officer, "and we hope Icelanders continue to enjoy the benefits of visa-free travel to the United States for many years to come."